

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

The following is a copy of Applicants' claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("____") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), or brackets ("[]"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently Amended) An appliance for cooking food under pressure, the appliance comprising:

a vessel (1) and a lid (2) for being fitted to and locked on said vessel (1) in order to form a leaktight cooking enclosure;

at least one jaw (4) and corresponding drive means 5, said jaw mounted to move in translation [by corresponding drive means (5)] between a position in which the lid (2) is locked relative to the vessel (1), and an unlocking position; and

a control device (6, 7, 8) for controlling the movement of the at least one jaw (4), the control device comprising:

an intermediate part (7) comprising maneuvering means (7A, 7B) and clutch means (7C, 19), and mounted to turn freely relative to the drive means (5) so that the maneuvering means (7A, 7B) co-operates with said drive means (5) so as to control the displacement thereof; and

a main control member (6) comprising transmission means (6C, 18, 30, 31), said main control member (6) being positioned relative to the intermediate part (7) so that the transmission means (6C, 18, 30, 31) co-operates with the clutch means (7C, 19) so as to control turning of the intermediate part (7) when the main control member (6) is actuated;

wherein the main control member (6) is mounted to move in translation relative to the lid (2).

2. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the main control member (6) is mounted to move in a direction that is substantially radial.

3. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the at least one jaw (4) is mounted to move in a direction that is substantially radial.

4. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the main control member (6) controls rotation of the intermediate part (7) [in a manner that is active in the locking direction and in the unlocking direction].

5. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the clutch means (7C, 19) comprises a pinion (19) mounted to be axially stationary on the intermediate part (7).

6. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 5, wherein the transmission means (6C, 18, 30, 31) comprises a rack (18) arranged on the main control member (6) to mesh laterally with the pinion (19).

7. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 5, wherein the transmission means (6C, 18, 30, 31) comprises:

a worm screw (31) mounted stationary on the main control member (6) and extending in the translation direction thereof; and

a gearwheel (30) mounted stationary relative to the lid (2) and meshing perpendicularly with the pinion (19), said gearwheel (30) having a central tapped hole co-operating with the worm screw (31) so that movement in translation thereof causes the gearwheel (30) to move in rotation.

8. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the clutch means (7C, 19) comprises a guide peg (7C) extending axially from the intermediate part (7).

9. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 8, wherein the transmission means (6C, 18, 30, 31) comprises at least one plane surface (32) extending obliquely relative to the radial direction, and arranged in such a manner that movement in translation of the main control member (6) causes the guide peg (7C) to be engaged by said [the] plane surface (32), which pushes against the guide peg (7C), thereby causing the intermediate part (7) to turn.

10. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 8, wherein the transmission means (6C, 18, 30, 31) comprises an oblong drive orifice (6C) extending obliquely [relative to the radial direction] and co-operating with the guide peg (7C) in such a manner that a movement in translation of the control member (6) leads to a movement in rotation of the intermediate part (7).

11. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate part (7) is mounted to turn resiliently relative to the lid (2) in such a manner that its resilient return position corresponds to at least one jaw (4[, 4']) being locked.

12. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 11, wherein the intermediate part (7) is mounted to turn resiliently against a compression spring (33).

13. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the drive means (5) includes at least one drive arm (5A, 5B) guided to move in translation relative to the lid (2), and presenting an outer end (24, 25) connected to the at least one [respective] jaw (4[, 4']) and an inner end (22, 23) for co-operating with the maneuvering means (7A, 7B).

14. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 13, wherein the inner end (22, 23) is provided with an axial guide stud (12A, 12B).

15. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 14, wherein the maneuvering means (7A, 7B) comprises at least one ramp-forming surface (34, 35) extending obliquely relative to the radial direction, and arranged in such a manner that when the intermediate part (7) turns, the ramp-forming surface (34, 35) engages the corresponding axial guide stud (12A, 12B) and pushes [it] said stud, thereby causing the drive means (5A, 5B) to move.

16. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 14, wherein the maneuvering means (7A, 7B) comprises at least one oblong maneuvering slot (7A, 7B) arranged in the thickness of the intermediate part (7) to engage the corresponding axial guide stud (12A, 12B) in such a manner that turning the intermediate part (7) causes the drive means (5A, 5B) to move.

17. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 16, wherein the intermediate part (7) is a control-wheel-forming plate having [as many lugs] at least one lug (36, 37) [as there are] and a corresponding number of jaws (4, 4'), and in which the oblong maneuvering slots (7A, 7B) are formed in said lugs.

18. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the maneuvering means (7A, 7B) comprise a link having one of its ends connected to the drive means (5) and having [its other] a second end connected to the intermediate part (7).

19. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the drive means (5) is mounted to slide resiliently relative to the lid (2) in such a manner that its resilient return position corresponds to the at least one jaw (4, 4') being locked.

20. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 16, wherein the main control member (6) is dynamically coupled with a secondary control member (8) mounted to move on the lid in a substantially axial direction, said secondary control member (8) being suitable for causing the drive means (5A, 5B) to move in the locking direction.

21. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 20, wherein the control device (6, 7, 8) for controlling movement of the at least one jaw includes reversible blocking means (9, 9', 9'') for locking the drive means (5A, 5B) in the unlocking position, the secondary control member (8) including release means (8A) for causing the reversible blocking means (9, 9', 9'') to be released.

22. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 21, wherein the oblong maneuvering slots (7A, 7B) are shaped so that each comprises a bend (38, 39) which forms the reversible blocking means (9, 9').

23. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, further comprising closure/opening safety means (10) having a position that is sensitive to the pressure or the temperature that exists inside the cooking enclosure, said safety means (10) being mounted to move between two stable abutment positions, a low abutment position in which said safety means puts the inside of the enclosure into communication with the outside below a predetermined internal pressure P_0 , and a high position in which it closes off communication between the enclosure and the outside when the pressure P_0 is reached, so as to allow the pressure inside the appliance to rise for cooking purposes.

24. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 23, wherein the closure/opening safety means (10) is a pressure-measuring rod.

25. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 23, wherein the intermediate part (7) is shaped in such a manner as to co-operate with the safety means so that the safety means prevents the intermediate part (7) from turning freely, and thus prevents the lid (2) from unlocking so long as the safety means is in the high position, said intermediate part (7) also being shaped so as to prevent the safety means (10) from reaching the high position so long as the intermediate part (7) is in a position other than that corresponding to the lid (2) being locked.

26. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the main control member (6) is an opening pusher suitable for being controlled by hand.

27. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, [wherein the] and including a secondary control member (8) [is] formed as a closure pusher suitable for being controlled by hand.

28. (Currently Amended) The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the lid (2) comprises an inside face (2A) facing towards the inside of the cooking enclosure and an opposite, outside face (2B) having mounted thereon a mechanism plate (13), the mechanism plate comprising:

a vertical assembly pin (14) about which the [control-wheel-forming plate] intermediate part (7) is mounted to turn freely, the oblong maneuvering slots (7A, 7B) thereof co-operating with respective corresponding rectilinear oblong slots (13A, 13B) formed radially in the mechanism plate (13) to define two engagement openings (15, 16) for each of said guide studs (12A, 12B), respectively; and

an opening pusher (6);

wherein the mechanism plate is arranged in such a manner that radial displacement of the opening pusher (6) leads to turning of the [control-wheel-forming plate] intermediate part (7), where such turning causes [the engagement openings (15, 16) to move radially, thereby entraining the guide studs (12A, 12B), and thus the arms (5A, 5B) and the jaws (4, 4')] said one jaw (4) to move to the unlocking position.

29. (Previously Presented) The cooking appliance according to claim 28, wherein the mechanism plate (13) is suitable for being fitted and releasably secured to the lid (2).